

State Representatives  
Larry Springer &  
Roger Goodman

PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



# Report from the 45<sup>th</sup> District

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WA STATE DEPT  
OF PRINTING 98501

## Town Hall meetings:

**November 17th**  
Redmond Library  
10 a.m.

Carnation Senior Center  
1 p.m.

# Report from the 45<sup>th</sup> District

## Rep. Larry Springer • Rep. Roger Goodman



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Summer is now over, the kids are back in school, so it's back to work letting you know what's happened in Olympia. Looking back on this year's legislative session, there were successes and failures. We are proud of the success stories – and the disappointments serve to help us create better legislation next time. This year's legislative session drew a considerable number of controversial headlines. What to do with the Alaskan Way Viaduct and the 520 bridge, whether the state should support a NASCAR track or a Sonics arena, and how to make the WASL a better test, all dominated stories in the media.

These are important issues and much work continues during the interim (this summer and fall, when we're not in formal session in Olympia). Transportation is more than maintaining or replacing existing infrastructure, better regional planning and more efficient governance are critical to meet the demands of a growing region. Quality education requires more than good tests. Support for teachers, early childhood programs that include access to healthcare and smaller class-sizes are key elements that will enable our children to thrive and compete in the global economy.

Inside you'll find updates on these subjects, and other issues from the 2007 legislative session.

Thanks to all of you that contacted our offices during session, helping us make informed decisions. Your comments and questions were — and always are — much appreciated.

Sincerely,

*L. Springer*      *Roger E. Goodman*

### Majority Floor Leader

**E-mail:**  
springer.larry@leg.wa.gov

- Committees:**
- Housing, **Vice Chair**
  - Rules
  - Puget Sound
  - Transportation

**Olympia office:**  
325 John L. O'Brien Bldg.  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7822

**Legislative Assistant:**  
Kelly Larsen  
larsen.kelly@leg.wa.gov



State Representative  
Larry Springer

**E-mail:**  
goodman.roger@leg.wa.gov

- Committees:**
- Judiciary, **Vice Chair**
  - Capital Budget
  - Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
  - Statute Law Committee

**Olympia office:**  
320 John L. O'Brien Bldg.  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7878

**Legislative Assistant:**  
Jeb Shepard  
shepard.jeb@leg.wa.gov



State Representative  
Roger Goodman

**Toll-Free Legislative Hotline:** (800) 562-6000  
**TDD (for hearing-impaired):** (800) 635-9993

**District Office:** 611 Market Street, Suite 2 • Kirkland, WA 98033 • (425) 739-1810

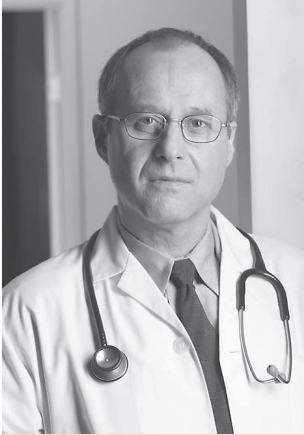
## ✓ Education



- Fair playing field for school levies** – For decades, parents and teachers have been pushing for fair school levy elections. This November we'll all have the opportunity to vote on the issue, deciding whether school levies should pass with over 50 percent of the vote like most other elections.
- Funding priorities in the classrooms** – This year's K-12 budget is one of the best ever for education. Even though we're still making up for lost time due to drastic budget cuts in recent years, among other investments, we fully-funded two education voter initiatives with \$518 million to pay teachers cost-of-living increases and reduce class sizes.
- All-day kindergarten to jumpstart learning** – Starting next school year, ten percent of our schools will begin all-day kindergarten. By getting students ready to learn earlier, we can reduce the achievement gap and help every child graduate prepared to earn a sustainable wage or continue their education into college.



## ✓ Health Care



reforms to improve health care over the next five years. Through prevention of costly, chronic diseases, like diabetes and heart disease, increased use of electronic records and improvements

### Every child covered by 2010

38,000 more children will have access to healthcare thanks to legislation passed this year. Getting medical coverage for all children is one less worry for parents and allows for kids to concentrate on their schoolwork.

### Help with prescription drug costs

Starting this year, Washington residents can save up to 60 percent on prescriptions through the new Washington Prescription Drug Program (WPDP). The WPDP is free. Apply at <http://www.rx.wa.gov/> or by calling 1-800-913-4146.

### Making health care reforms

Using the Blue Ribbon Commission's report, the Legislature passed several



to our public health system, we will make progress on reducing costs and improving quality in service delivery.

### Joining families, business and the state to lower costs

Another exciting development is the creation of the Health Care Partnership. Once implemented, employers, employees, and the state will combine resources to ensure access to healthcare services. This legislation eases the pressure



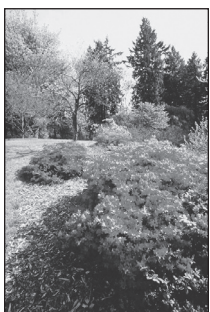
on businesses to provide and pay all of the costs for health care benefits to their employees. Employers will decide how much they want to contribute to the cost of their employees' coverage. Employees will be able to use pre-tax dollars to pay their share of the premium and will have a choice of medical insurance plans. Low income employees will be able to get help from the state to pay their share of the premium.



## Rep. Larry Springer

### Working for solutions as Majority Floor Leader

This session was my first as Floor Leader for my caucus. The amount of additional work as part of the leadership team was surprising, but also very rewarding. I was proud to help keep our agenda focused on important issues to our district, such as education and transportation, while making sure we passed a fiscally responsible budget.



### Safeguards against property rights abuses

I focused on assuring eminent domain powers, when legitimately used, are applied fairly and are first and foremost designed to protect private property owners.

Unfortunately, my reform bill did not come up for a vote in the Senate, but I will reintroduce it in January. If it passes, property owners will have these additional protections:

- Alternative options must be considered in eminent domain decisions.
- The amount of money the condemning authority must reimburse the property owner for fees incurred in protecting property will be significantly increased.
- Property owners will be given the right to repurchase their property at the price it was sold, within 7 years, if that property remains unused.
- Economic development cannot be the sole purpose of an eminent domain action.

### Increasing Housing Affordability

We have a critical housing affordability crisis in our region. No surprise to anyone.

I sponsored legislation to increase housing choices and to increase the Transitional Housing Operating and Rental (THOR) program by \$15 million for homeless housing. Unfortunately, this bill also did not come to a vote in the Senate.

Next session I'll reintroduce legislation to jumpstart policies that encourage development of and access to more affordable housing for first-time home buyers and continue efforts to eliminate homelessness by the end of this decade.



## Rep. Roger Goodman

### Focus on Public Safety

Through my work on the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee, I've unfortunately seen how unprepared we are for any kind of disaster. Last session I helped secure funding so our Eastside police and fire agencies can communicate better. Next session I'd like to take our planning another step, by working to set up defined shelters with secured food storage.

Law enforcement also came to me and asked for help getting abandoned vehicles off their streets. Their resources were tapped with owners leaving junk cars in neighborhoods, and my bill gave them the tools needed to clear them and make our streets safer.



### Keeping gas stations open in emergencies

Our memory of last winter's windstorm is fading fast, but as we look ahead we need to secure our access to fuel for home generators and emergency transportation. Gas stations serve the public and we need to make sure they stay open.

My common-sense bill died last session after strong opposition from Big Oil, but I'll be coming back with a bill to provide relief to what I see as a huge hole in our emergency preparedness planning.

### Tough and smart DUI reform

Effective reform, preventing drunk drivers from getting on the road, needs to be our aim in the Legislature. For too long we've thought only about what to do after someone is charged — or charged again and again — as we've seen with the worst repeat offenders.

In the Legislature, I'm now bringing together the key stakeholders involved with this critical issue, including law enforcement, victims advocates, prosecutors, substance abuse counselors, and members of both political parties. I'm working to craft common-sense policy that will work to improve road safety and hold drunk drivers accountable.

These are preventable tragedies — smart, but tough DUI laws will save lives.



Rep. Larry Springer  
Rep. Roger Goodman

# Report from the 45<sup>th</sup> District

